

K-131

Bradford Johnson Farmhouse/The Boyer Farm
near Golts
c. 1820

It appears that when the builders of the Bradford Johnson Farmhouse first constructed the dwelling they used the Baird house on the adjoining Adventure as their model. They are similar not only in fenestration, but in form and plan as well.

The south facade is laid in Flemish bond above an unmolded water table. The joists were double-struck making them appear more delicate than they were. Originally the windows appear to have had 12/12 sash on the first floor and 9/9 on the second—unusual proportions in any house. The kitchen had a door and window on each facade, but the doors were asymmetrically placed, indicating the position of the interior partition. The rear facade had a different window pattern than that of The Adventure. One dining room window was eliminated from the five bays, but all five windows above are in place, including a smaller window to light the stair landing. This last window appears to have been an afterthought, because there is a filling of brick above it to the height of the other windows.

The interior of the main block had an entry/stairhall with one room on either side. The east side contained an enclosed stair in the northeast corner. Before the building was plastered, the west room, hall and east room ceiling were whitewashed. By 1830, however, the plastering appears to have been completed in the main part of the house. The kitchen wing was not finished with plaster, but only whitewashed. The two chambers and passage above the kitchen had whitewashed board walls, brick walls and

exposed ceiling joists. These remained until its demolition in 1994.

When the Tax Assessor visited the 3rd District (present 1st & 2nd) in 1822, he found Stephen Boyer the owner of 620 acres composed of Angel's Lott, Forrest Lands and The Adventure. Boyer's property, land, slaves, etc. were appraised for \$3702.00.¹ When he died intestate in 1838, his personal property exceeded \$4400.00, including "a well furnished dwelling, 14 slaves" and a large number of livestock.² One of the appraisers of the estate was E. T. Massey who lived nearby. Boyer's widow, Maria was the administrator.

Apparently after Boyer's death the Farm passed to his son, Simon Wilmer Boyer, as he is listed on the Martinet Map. In Simon's inventory at the time of his death in 1869, both a cook stove and a woodstove are listed.³ The farm was sold to Robert A. Cochran of the Middletown area. Thereafter it was a tenant farm until it was purchased by Bradford Johnson. Upon the death of Mrs. Johnson the farm was given to the present owners who subsequently demolished the house in 1994.

1. Tax Assessment, 1822.
2. Inventories, Lib. 1, fol. 572.
3. Inventories, Lib, JP 1, Lib. 1, fol. 523.

K-131
Johnson House, Dixon Acres
Golds
Private

Early 19th Century

Bradford Johnson House is a two and one-half story brick dwelling with ribbed moldings common in the first half of the 19th century. It has a central stair/entrance hall as is usual in houses of this period and an unusual enclosed corner stair in the dining room.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

K-131
 DATE # 11/1984

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Johnson House , Dixon Acres

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Bradford Johnson Road

CITY, TOWN

Golts

VICINITY OF

First

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Frank & Rebecca C. Dixon

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Golts

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
 Maryland 21637

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Courthouse

Liber #: E4P71

Folio #: 140

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

K-131

7 DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|------------|
| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | | CHECK ONE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED | DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Johnson House is early 19th century, brick farm house , located near the intersection of State Road 219 and Bradford Johnson Road. The structure, surrounded by open fields, stands at the end of a lane facing southeast.

The main house is two and one-half stories high with an attic and a side wing, two stories, two bays. Both sections of the house are covered with tin gable roofs, the wing being shorter and narrower than the main house. The entire structure is brick; continuous front and rear walls indicate that the entire house was built at the same time. Later additions are the lattice-enclosed leanto porch off the wing gable and front and rear porches which probably were constructed in the early 20th century.

Main entrances are centrally located in the main house. The front door has eight raised and beveled panels and is set in a frame with corresponding paneled head and jamb. The door surround has stiles molded with a shallow ogee to resemble pilasters resting on a simple plynth. There is a three-pane transom light. Corner blocks with a simple incised circle were removed when the later three bay porch was constructed. The rear entrance is identical except that the corner blocks remain and there is no transom light.

The main house is evenly fenestrated, front and rear, with 2/2 Victorian sash in each window. The only change in window position occurs in the rear, center bay, where the second floor window has been lowered, evidentially, to light the stair landing. Window openings on the front facade have widely splayed flat arches of one and one-half bricks; basement windows, located between window bays, have rowlock arches. Window trim is pegged, unbeaded and finished with a quarter round backband molding. Original sills remain on several windows; these are rounded and trimmed on the under side with a cavetto molding. Windows on the rear facade are similar to those on the front, however, there is no first floor window in the bay left of the central door and flat arches are only one brick high. Throughout the main house, the second floor window openings are much narrower than first floor openings. Shutters formerly on all windows have been removed, although several types of shutter dogs, dating from early to late 19th century, remain in place. The attic is lit by small, four-pane windows in the gables.

Openings on the wing are more irregular. On the front facade, second floor windows are evenly spaced and have 6/6 sash held by beaded pegged frames. On the first floor, the two windows are situated near the end gable and 2/2 sash used. Flat arches are used although those on the second floor are taller. There is a rear entrance centrally located on the rear facade of the wing.

Flemish bond is used on the front facade with common bond used on the wing and the side and rear elevations of the main house. There is a simple stepped water table only on the front facade. The dark colored bricks are quite small and regular in shape; it is laid with very narrow nortar joints.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-131

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES Early 19th century BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Johnson House is significant as an example of early 19th century vernacular architecture. Although it is a very simple house it resembles the grand Rich Hill in having two stairs in the main house. Bradford Johnson was a long time local resident who occupied the house until the 1960's.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Historical Society

DATE

August, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Church Alley

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

7 Continued

Chimneys with simple corbelled caps are enclosed within each of the three gables.

The building is one room deep with a central hall and main stair. There is also a small corner stair in the northeast room, (rear) corner; this unusual feature is also found in Rick Hill

Interior trim is characteristic of the late 1820's and 1830's in its use of flatish ribbed detailing which is simpler than that used in the too preceeding Federal period. In the Johnson House this trim appears in a single vertical band on the splayed window jambs.

1. STATE **Maryland**
 COUNTY **Kent**
 TOWN **Goits** VICINITY
 STREET NO. **Brandford Johnson Rd. (north)**
 ORIGINAL OWNER
 ORIGINAL USE **dwelling**
 PRESENT OWNER **Mrs. Bradford Johnson**
 PRESENT USE **dwelling**
 WALL CONSTRUCTION **brick**
 NO. OF STORIES **two**

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
 INVENTORY **K-131**

2. NAME **Bradford Johnson Farm**
 DATE OR PERIOD **c. 1800**
 STYLE **Federal**
 ARCHITECT
 BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC **no**

The Bradford Johnson House is an early 19th century house of the plan common to the Eastern Shore; five bays long, two storys tall and one room deep, with a two bay, two story, brick wing on the east side. It stands on a high foundation-basement laid in common bond brick. There is a quarter round molded water table. The south facade is laid in Flemish bond there are flat arches above the windows. The sash is presently 2/2 with one exception on the wing which has a 6/6 treatment. The shutters are paneled down and louvered up. The central entrance has pilaster strips, transom and paneled door. The house is covered with an "A" roof which has a good wood box cornice. In front of the door is a small porch and there is also an enclosed porch on the east gable. Both east gables are covered with cement.

The floor plan of the house is identical to Rich Hill (K - 127) across the field, but is a later example. The trim is federal and considerably lighter and less elaborate than Rich Hill.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE **Endangered no Interior fair Exterior fair**

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Michael Bourne

DATE OF RECORD **July 19, 1968**

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE





K-131

BRADFORD JOHNSON HOUSE

MHT-K131

BRADFORD JOHNSON RD. - GALENA, MD.

FRONT - NORTH

C. ENGSTROM AUG. 1977



K-131

BRADFORD JOHNSON HOUSE

MHT K131

BRADFORD JOHNSON RD. - GALENA, MD.

REAR - SOUTH

C. ENGSTROM AUG 1977